

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4764

1. Name

Historic 406 – 424 South Durham Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 406 – 424 South Durham Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The west side of the 400 block of S. Durham St. is composed of three different groupings of two-story, two-bay-wide brick houses dating from the 1830s to the early 1900s. Most of the houses has been covered with formstone and many have had their original cornices removed.

406 - 408 S. Durham St. are two-and-a-half story brick houses with gable roofs and dormer windows with broken pediments, typical of the small groups of two-and-a-half story, Federal-style houses built in Baltimore in the early years of the 19th century. This particular group is only one-room deep and has the steeply-pitched gable roof characteristic of this type of house. The houses are two-and-a-half stories in height, 11'4" wide, and occupy lots 42' deep. To provide service access to the rear yards on these back-to-back city lots, an arched sallyport runs back between the center of the pair. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house.

The houses are constructed in common bond, and were always painted. The pitched gable roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. Door and window openings are surmounted by splayed brick lintels and have wood sills. The window openings are filled with 6/6 and 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and modern six-panel doors. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by two brick steps. The houses are only one room deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door and with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear corner of the room. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

410 - 414 S. Durham St. is a group of three two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with low-pitched gable roofs typical of the small alley houses built in Baltimore in the 1850s and 1860s, often along especially narrow secondary alley streets running perpendicularly off the main "alley" street. In many cases, alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class families and many are still covered with the formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

Continuation sheet

The houses are two stories in height, 10'4" wide, and occupy lots 42' deep. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The pitch of the gable roof is especially low, a characteristic of this particular type of two-story, gable-roofed alley house. The houses are probably constructed in common bond, but all of the facades are now covered with either formstone. Originally each house had a simple brick corbelled cornice, but all are now obscured by the formstone. Chimneys are located in the middle of the front and rear rooms and each house also has a chimney at the rear end of the kitchen addition. The original door and window openings have been completely obscured by the stucco and formstone coverings and all windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, all surmounted by a single light transom. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by a low, single concrete or brick step.

The houses are basically two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

416 - 424 S. Durham St. are three-story, two-bay wide brick houses which were probably built as tenement houses. All but one of the houses is covered with formstone. The houses range in width between 11' and 11'6" wide and occupy lots 63' deep. The houses are built in common bond and the shed roof has a simple brick corbelled cornice. Door and window openings have splayed brick lintels and brick sills. The window openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. No original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, each entrance being reached by one or two brick or concrete steps.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1810 - 1875

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The group of houses on the west side of the 400 block of S. Durham St. is significant in that it contains a pair of houses dating to the period of Fells Point's importance as a maritime center in the first part of the nineteenth century, and also contains a later row of three-story, shed-roofed houses that may have been built as tenement houses to provide housing for the large influx of workers moving to Fells Point in the 1870s and 1880s as harbor-based industries like canning began to dominate the waterfront. It is also significant as representing a healthy city neighborhood that has been inhabited by people taking care of their homes for over one-hundred-and-seventy-five years, and like many neighborhoods of this type, most of the houses were covered with formstone in the 1950s and 1960s.

The two-and-a-half story houses were built at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore, and when most houses were built in pairs, not long rows. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Durham Street was known as Happy Alley and its occupants were racially mixed. The three story houses were built c. 1875 to accommodate the growing labor force centered around the Baltimore waterfront. They may represent one of a small group of experimental "tenement houses" erected at this time in Fells Point and in southwest Baltimore, where narrow, three-story houses were built along alley streets to provide rental living spaces for the large numbers of workers arriving after the Civil War to work in new port-related industries. This type of housing did not prove popular and is only seen on a few blocks in Fells Point, a block or two in west Baltimore, and some blocks in the southwestern portion of the city.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4764

406-424 S. Durham St

BALTO. MD

1906 City Atlas

N
↑

FIRE ENG.
COAL YARD

PRIMARY
SCHOOL

ST.

ST.

AVE.

AVE.

FOUNTAIN ST.

ST.

ST.

BOSTON ST.

OYSTER & FRUIT PACKING
DYING
PACKING
WAREHOUSE
2101

I.A. Sheppard & Co.
EXCELSIOR STOVE
WORKS

COAL YARD
Weissert
& Sons
STOVE
FURNITURE

A. BOOTH
PACKING COMPANY

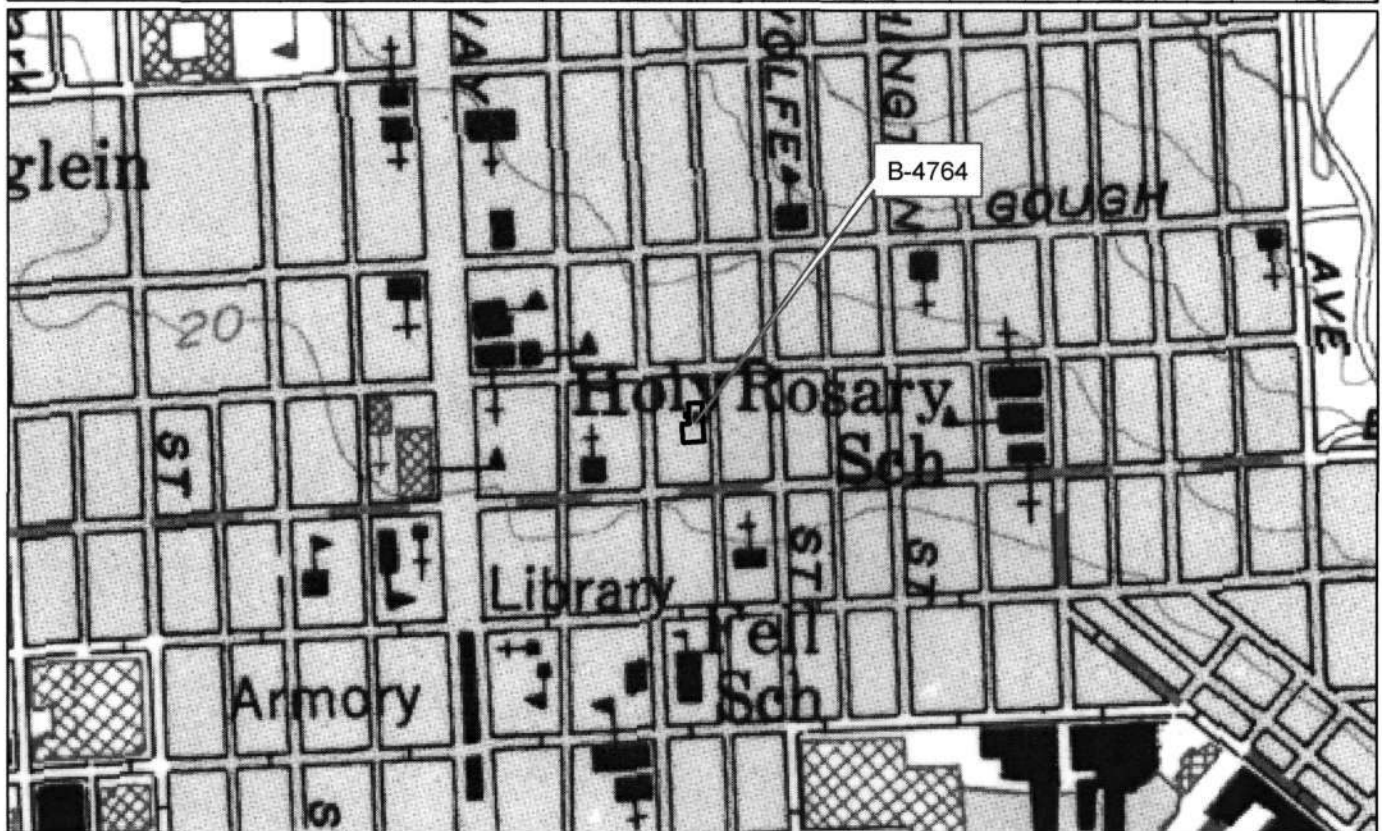
MACHINE SHOP

N.E.
ROBERTS BROS.
DYING
PACKING
WOODFORD &
COAL
YARD

PRIMARY
SCHOOL

COOPERAGE
PICKLING

B-4764
406-424 S. Durham Street
Block 1772 Lots 062-071
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





406 - 408 S. Durham

FP6

3-4764

406-424 S. Durham St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

12/97

MD SHPP

1/4

1301384 0211 N H 1 1 0



410-414 S Durham

FD6

B-4764

406-424 S. Durham St.

BALTO. MD.

C. Belfiore

12/97

MD SHPO

2/4

[29.364 724.4 2 11 4 22]



414-424 S. Durham

FPL

B-4764

406-424 S. Durham Pt.

BALTO. MD

C. Beffner

12/97

3/4

128534 0211 4 3 4 1



420

422 S. Durham
FD6

B-4764
422 S. Durham St.
BALTO. MD
C. Belfiore
12/97
4/4

L273884 0211 9 4 9 9 7